

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-14 NSC-10

RSR-01 /086 W

----- 062865

R 151445 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9697

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03075

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, TECH, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

1. JAMES HAMILTON, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR AEROSPACE IN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, RECENTLY TOLD US THAT UK FULLY COMMITTED TO CARRY OUT CONCORDE PROJECT AND THAT ONLY UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME WERE LEVEL OF "SPECULATIVE" PRODUCTION (IN EXCESS OF FIRM ORDERS) AND WHETHER PRODUCTION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON ONE PRODUCTION LINE OR TWO. ON LATTER QUESTION, HAMILTON SAID IT PROBABLY POSSIBLE EFFECT 10 OR 15 PERCENT SAVING ON PRODUCTION COSTS BY CONCENTRATING PRODUCTION ON ONE LINE BUT THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH COULD AGREE TO CLOSE DOWN ONE LINE. WE COULD NOT DRAW HIM OUT ON NUMBER OF SSTs LIKELY TO BE BUILT.

2. HAMILTON REMAINS CONVINCED THAT SUPERSONIC COMMERCIAL TRAVEL IS INEVITABLE AND, QUESTIONS OF OPERATING ECONOMICS ASIDE, HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE CONCORDE CONCEPT, I.E., MACH 2 TECHNOLOGY, IS BASICALLY SOUND APPROACH TO NEXT GENERATION OF HIGH SPEED AIRCRAFT. ONLY IMPROVEMENTS HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN MADE IN CONCORDE

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DESIGN WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREASES IN PAYLOAD AND RANGE.

3. HAMILTON SAID UK WOULD DEFINITELY BE INTERESTED IN
PIECE OF THE ACTION IF US REVIVES SST PROJECT BUT INDI-
CATED UK SPONSORSHIP, WITH OR WITHOUT FRENCH SUPPORT,
OF A MARK II CONCORDE HIGHLY UNLIKELY. WE INFERRED FROM
HAMILTON'S REMARKS THAT IN FUTURE UK WOULD PROBABLY STICK
WITH AIRCRAFT DESIGNED TO MEET FORESEEABLE MARKET DEMANDS
RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE COSTLY GAMBLE THAT MARKET WOULD
DEVELOP IN RESPONSE TO NEW AIRCRAFT DESIGN.

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971210
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TAGS: ETRN, TECH, FR, UK
To: EB
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN
PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005